FARM TOPICS

RATE EACH COW TO VALUE HERD

Individual Animal Must Be Checked for Replacements.

By W. T. CRANDALL
(Professor of Animal Husbandry, Cornell University.)

Every dairyman should know just how good each of his cows is; lack of knowledge makes for waste in feeding and poor judgment in selecting herd replacements.

The use of milk scales every day for every cow will show the farmer the true value of his cows over a period of months.

With knowledge of daily production, the farmer can vary a cow's ration to meet her needs, and thus avoid any waste of costly concentrates. Often the man who feeds is not the man who does the milking, and the only way he can feed properly is to study the daily production record of each cow.

By feeding grain carefully to each cow according to her needs, it may be possible to increase the total herd production, even though considerably less total grain is fed.

In some herds, where several men do the milking, a daily production chart usually stimulates the men to do a more thorough job of milking. It becomes, in a way, a measure of their efficiency.

Check the milk scales periodically for accuracy, and make sure they are hung in enough light to be read easily. Put the daily production chart near the scales, and see that it is kept clean and easily read.

Farm Electrification Still Relatively Low

Although under the government program rural electrification in this country has made striking progress in recent years, the number of farms using electrified agricultural equipment has remained relatively low, according to the department of commerce.

It is estimated that at the present time more than 2,000,000 farms, or approximately 35 per cent of the country's total, have access to electric current. The proportion of farms served by electricity is highest in the northeastern and extreme western states and lowest in the southern and Great Plains states. In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and California, five out of every six farms homes are now electrically lighted.

A recent survey of families served by Rural Electrification administration systems in 33 states showed that 99.7 per cent had radio receiving sets; 85.3 per cent had irons, 55 per cent washing machines, 41.8 per cent electric refrigerators, and 21 per cent vacuum cleaners. On the other hand, only 18.4 per cent reported electric water pumps, 16.5 per cent utility farm motors, 10.5 per cent poultry lighting, 8.2 per cent cream separators, and 1.1 per cent milk coolers.

The results of this nation-wide survey, are significant of the potential market, not only for household appliances but more particularly for electrical farm equipment

U. S. Silk Production Has Many Barriers

The current shortage of silk brings to mind the fact that Cortez imported silkworms and mulberry seed into Mexico back in 1522. Nothing much came of that.

Attempts have been made to start a silk industry in the United States since the days of the first settlers. The U. S. department of agriculture carried on experiments in silk production for some years but discontinued them in 1908 when the venture failed to show promise.

Brazil has had some success in producing silk but even there the production is far below domestic needs.

The main barriers to silk production in the United States are the large amount of hand labor required in caring for silkworms and the expense of the reeling process by which the cocoons are unwound and the strands blended to form threads.

Increased use of cotton and of the silk substitutes, such as rayon and nylon, are expected to take the place of silk in the domestic field. So far no substitute has been satisfactory for parachutes and powder bags for large caliber guns.

Rat Racketeers

Rats are real racketeers on farms, in the opinion of T. H. Parks, extension specialist, Ohio State university, who says these rodents cost the average farmer $40 annually in damage done besides being a carrier of diseases.

Community campaigns to rid premises of rats are most effective because the rodents travel from farm to farm. Poison baits can be prepared cheaper per unit in large quantities than in smaller amounts.

Engineers Hunt For Lost River

Hope to Tap Stream as New Irrigation Supply for Southern Idaho.

BOISE, IDAHO.—Reclamation engineers are hunting a hidden, underground river that courses through southern Idaho in hope of tracking down and tapping its subterranean flow as a new supply for irrigation water.

The Little and Big Lost rivers of east central Idaho are providing the locale for this search by engineers—a treasure hunt they believe may provide water to convert sagebrush prairies into fertile farm country.

The state department of reclamation has sent out a crew to sink a 12-inch test well along the Little Lost river, a stream that rises in the eastern part of the state, joins with the Big Lost river and then disappears into porous lava soil.

Lost Channel Indicated.

The water doesn't just disappear and Reclamation Commissioner E. V. Berg said tests showed that the vast, underground stream runs through almost the breadth of the state.

Water for the underground streams comes from Teton mountain peaks on the upper reaches of the Snake river. It seeps into gravel-like strata and lies between two impervious layers of stone like in a huge basin, Berg explained.

The subterranean stream, Berg believes, runs east to west across the state and empties into the Snake river by way of hundreds of springs near Twin Falls.

Purpose of the tests is to find the course of the main flow or the hidden river, Berg said. When it is located wells may be sunk to siphon off the water and send it through irrigation canals.

Cost to Be Small.

"Actually this underground river acts as a huge reservoir—one which won't cost us a cent to build," the commissioner said. "Our biggest job is to find where most of the water is running. In most cases we believe the water will rise to the surface as in artesian wells, but if not, we can use power pumps.

"Use of this water, now running to waste several yards beneath the surface, will open up a new irrigation supply for Idaho farmers if we can get it running along the top of the ground."

Farmers in the Mud lake area, a section that adjoins the course believed to be followed by the "lost" river, already have utilized water resources of the underground stream.

A large farming section was opened by obtaining water from artesian wells in the area. In most cases, Berg said, the water came within a few feet of the surface. Farmers cut 10-foot deep canals that interconnected the artesian wells and have built up an excellent irrigation system.

Evidence Put Right in Deputy Sheriff's Hands

GREENVILLE, S. C. — "What's going on up there?" demanded Deputy Sheriff A. C. Gossett when, upon entering a suspected bootlegger's house quietly, he observed a pair of legs standing on a platform, the top portion of the body in the attic.

"Don't bother about that," said partially invisible one. "Just hold these for me."

He started passing down fruit jars of illicit whisky.

Gossett waited until all jars were handed down and then set out for headquarters with the attic explorer and the fruits of his exploration.

Everything but Sheep To Help Soldiers Sleep

WASHINGTON.—More than 41,000,000 pieces of equipment and supplies are needed to assure a night's rest for every soldier, the war department said. According to the quartermaster corps' procurement program each soldier will have available a steel bed, mattress, two pillows, three mattress covers, four pillow cases, six wool blankets and nine sheets. A trunk locker for storing personal belongings and surplus clothing which cannot be hung at the head of his bed is also provided for each soldier.

Japanese Claim World's Ship 'Sardine' Record

DAIREN, KUANTUNG LEASED TERRITORY.—Japanese shipping circles here claim to hold the world's record for transporting the largest number of human beings in a single ship.

They say they carried 8,400 Chinese laborers from Tsingtao, China, in a single trip of the 6,000-ton Paris Maru.

Life Pass Awaits Nazi With Ersatz Golf Ball

WASHINGTON. — The Germans have a lot of problems these days, and one of them is golf balls. The commerce department said it noted an advertisement in German papers in which the German Golf association offered a prize for the development of a new golf ball using materials available in Germany. The prize is a lifetime pass to all German golf courses (so nobody surrounds a golf course).

FARM TOPICS

SOIL PROTECTION HELPS WAR PLAN

Increased Production Takes Toll of Important Resource.

By PROF. C. J. CHAPMAN
(Soils Department, Wisconsin College Of Agriculture, Madison, Wis.)

While we are pouring billions of dollars into the war program to fight the aggressions of Axis powers threatening our way of life, we likewise have an obligation that is of tremendous importance to our future and ultimate security. And that is the protection of our greatest resource—the soil.

It is fortunate that before we had to launch this all-out military effort we were already engaged in a peace-time defense program involving soil conservation. It is essential that this program we have so well started against the forces of nature and human indifference and carelessness for the preservation of our soils be continued. Otherwise the handwriting on the wall for American agriculture of the future will be visible to even the dimmest eye.

It is of vital importance that our soils be made fit to produce the vast crops necessary in this war effort.

The federal government has already shown what can be done through its gigantic programs of land use planning, soil conservation, erosion control and reforestation. The combined results of the findings of experiment stations, extension workers and teachers, and the efforts of the educational agencies of the fertilizer industry, have long since built up a vast fund of information that leaves no doubt as to the wisdom of and necessity for a never-ending program of soil conservation.

Steadily, but surely, the soils of the United States have been losing essential plant food elements ever since they were brought under cultivation. The organic matter content of our soils is diminishing. Tremendous losses of plant food are being incurred in the yearly sale of farm products, in crops and live-stock products. We are losing fertility through the wasteful handling of animal manures.

It is true that losses of plant food have been offset to some extent through the purchase of commercial fertilizer. However, the sum total of all losses in actual plant food taken from our farms or wasted on farms is many times that which at present is brought back and applied to cultivated fields in the form of commercial fertilizer. We cannot continue a system of farming where we are spending or using up soil fertility many times as fast as it is being replenished.

AGRICULTURE IN INDUSTRY

By Florence C. Weed

(This is one of a series of articles showing how farm products are finding an important market in industry.)

Honey and Wax

The honey and wax industry brings $14,000,000 or a half million bee keepers in the 48 states. Each year the wax is adapted to wider uses, especially in cosmetics where it is used as a base for the finer face creams and nail polishes. It also is used in polishes for furniture.

In the automotive industry, beeswax goes into foundry fillets. Here it is especially favored because the wax sticks to any surface and can be worked into the corners of patterns. Higher priced electric coils are insulated with wax and some goes into the cores of golf balls.

After marketing their product, bee keepers have some of the wax returned to them in the form of comb foundation which they buy for their hives. This is the thin midrib on which the bees make their comb.

Nearly 3,000,000 pounds of beeswax is used for rubrical candles and lights for the Catholic church. Beeswax candles are favored for mystical reasons and because the high melting point of wax (145 degrees) provides a slow burning candle that will not bend at high temperatures. The pure wax candle does not smoke and gives off no irritating gas.

Some honey is used in curing hams and brier pipes but most of it goes to the direct consumer for food. It is highly recommended for quick energy and is prescribed by physicians for infant feeding and in the treatment of some diseases. Dark colored, strong flavored grades go to bakery and confectionery trades.

Agricultural News

Three million United States farms now are included in soil conservation districts.

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Russia is experimenting in the production of rubber from a variety of dandelion to supply war needs.

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During the winter cows in product tion consume about five pounds of water for every pound of milk they give.

Lights of New York

by L. L. STEVENSON

This & That: Another of those "Public Notices" that makes me wonder what it's all about: "M. M. R. You have been defying Father Time for the last 10 years. Here's hoping you hold onto the secret for at least 50 more. D." . . . and in the same column, a switch in the plaint of many a husband: "Not responsible for debts contracted by my husband, Edward Francis ——"

. . . Men in the uniformed service of the United States now ride free on the ferry boat operated by the city of New York . . . A law giving them that privilege, enacted in World war No. 1 days, was dug up recently . . . Arthur Murray gives free weekly dancing instructions to members of the army, navy and marine corps stationed in the New York area . . . British sailors have also been invited to attend classes . . . With but one exception, all have asked to be taught the rhumba . . . The New York Telephone company is taking reservations for Christmas day calls to Europe.

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Continuing: Dutton, publishers, want to do an autobiography of Col. Edward S. Evans, Detroit industrialist and father of gliding in the United States . . . Twenty-eight railroad presidents make the Roosevelt their permanent New York address . . . Or didn't you know there were that many railroads? . . . The better hotels in New York give their captains of waiters a bonus for each bottle of wine they sell—25 cents for champagne and 20 cents for still wines . . . Ice shows have gone over with a bang in London . . . The beleaguered city has three, all hits . . . New York's biggest ice show, at the Center theater, is now in its second year . . . White mice and canaries are reported to be in such demand in the war zones that they are worth their weight in gold . . . They are used to give warnings of gas.

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More: Those ugly goggles Tallulah Bankhead wears are not a Hollywood fad; one result of her eyestrain . . . Guy Lombardo wore a plaster on his nose because he bumped the schnozzle while trying out a friend's powder-laden speed boat . . . It is reported that Jan Savitt, ork leader, will be made an honorary citizen of Chattanooga because of his recording of "The Chattanooga Choo Choo" . . . Eleanor Holm has signed up for skating lessons—she prefers water even if it is frozen . . . The truck that sweeps the ice on the Rockefeller skating rink won't be out of the pond all winter, yet it must carry a New York trucking license . . . The driver would be booked if it didn't . . . Reckless skaters are given skates with red blades so instructors can keep them under constant surveillance.

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Slogan: "Pedestrians should be seen and not hurt" . . . Ethel Barrymore Colt is giving Grace Hartman singing lessons in exchange for rhumba lessons . . . Like Blue Barron's orchestra on war propaganda: "Believe less than half you hear and don't do any more than that" . . . When the orchestra in The Troika in Washington, D. C., played "The Flight of the Bumble Bee," Sir Louis Beale of the British Purchasing commission, remarked, "Marvelous—sounds like an R.A.F. symphony" . . .

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Definitions: Freedom, asserts Alice Frost, is being able to do what you please without considering anyone except the wife, boss, police, life insurance company, state, federal and city authorities and the neighbors . . . Mark Watrow's observation: Most shoestring producers end up taking a lasting Frank Fay's view that labor unions are organizations that refuse to admit hire can be lower . . . Billy Mills believes people should have more recreation and less wreckreation

. . . Ezra Stone says he's seen a lot of fellows go from puppy love to dog's life . . . Xavier Cugat observes that knitting is an occupation for women that performs the same function as smoking for a man except that when dropped, it doesn't burn the rug.

• • •

Around the Town: At Eighth avenue and Forty-second street, a policeman searching the person and shoeshine box of a colored lad—he had pulled a knife on a passerby who had made an insulting remark . . . Ethel Merman hurrying up Fifth avenue—a thrush in a rush . . . Also on Fifth avenue, Carol King's huge white English bulldog rubbing noses with a black German dachshund . . . Burgess Meredith doing the Casino Russe three nights in a row—and with three different girls . . .

THE END.
(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

Marble Pillars to Bid Welcome to Alabama

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Visitors to Alabama in the future will be met with an official welcome, sand-blasted in marble, when they cross the state line.

The highway department has received bids for 12 white marble pillars, 9 feet by 4, to place at main highways. Each will bear a message of welcome.

Personals

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Gilbert during the holidays were Pvt. and Mrs. Otis Challiss, Miss Jean Coates, Mrs. James McClintic, Mrs. Lula Belcher and two sons, Myron and Stuart, all of Richmond, and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Norman and two sons, Ben, Jr., and Alfred, of Williamsburg, and Joe Goin, of Newport News.

Clinton Childers, of Fort Story, was home on leave Monday night.

Peyton Seay, of Arlington, spent the holidays with his mother, Mrs. C. E. Seay.

Lt. and Mrs. John Oxford and daughter, Nancy, returned to their home in Williamsburg Thursday after visiting her mother, Mrs. C. E. Seay.

P. F. C. Hyle McLinic, of New River, N. C., visited recently in the home of Mrs. G. W. Lewis.

George Lewis, of Newport News, spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. G. W. Lewis.

Pvt. and Mrs. Jacob Lewis spent the week-end in Veteria.

Miss Alma Schmidt, of Rice, spent the week-end recently with Misses Velva and Mary Lewis.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Zastrow and children, of Dillwyn, spent last week with her mother, Mrs. J. S. Plunkett.

FERGUSON—CYRUS

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Gilbert announce the marriage of Mary Alice Ferguson, daughter of Mrs. Martha Jamerson Ferguson, and the late Phillip W. Ferguson, and Alexander Robinson Cyrus, son of A. G. Cyrus, all of Appomattox, Va.

The wedding took place on December 24, at the Presbyterian manse, by the Rev. R. E. Redding.

The bride wore a beige coat, with brown accessories, and a corsage. The bride is a graduate of the Appomattox high school . . .

She is employed as secretary at Appomattox high school. The groom is engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus will make their home in Appomattox.

Have you given your part to Appomattox county's Red Cross War Fund quota?

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By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST Dean of Faculty, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union

A regular feature of THIS PAPER

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

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Appomattox, Virginia

Rocks Personal Happenings

Rocks, Jan. 6.- The first snow of the season fell here Saturday night.

Shomy Wilson, who returned from the hospital last Thursday is improving rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Ranson and son William Carroll were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ranson, of Appomattox one afternoon last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Richardson, of Farmville, spent Saturday night with her mother, Mrs. D. R. Lee, of Pamplin.

Miss Gertrude Ranson, of Appomattox, spent Sunday in the home of Mrs. Frank Rauson. Also Harry Ranson and daughter, Louise, of Appomattox spent Sunday afternoon in the same home.

Tobie Inge, who has been spending some time at his home here, left Sunday afternoon for Baltimore.

G. H. Ranson is now living at Appomattox, with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ranson.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Redd and baby, Harold, of Melvalin, spent last Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Garlinghouse.

Mrs. B. D. Dickerson, who has been sick, is up going around again.

Hudson Dickerson attended preaching at Falling River church Sunday.

Mrs. Sherman Garlinghouse was visiting her daughter, Mrs. P. H. McPhillips at Hixburg a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Frank Ranson and Mrs. W. F. Ranson were visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Ranson recently.

C. S. Ranson motored to Blackstone Monday.

Appomattox Wayside

Recent dinner guests of Mrs. Mildred Alvis were Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Evans and family, of Gladys, Mr. and Mrs. John Alvis and family, Miss Cornelia Gills, Jimmie Conner, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. O'Brien, and Alfred O'Brien.

Mrs. Mary Taylor Copenhaver, of Marion, who spent the holidays with relatives here and in Richmond has returned to her school.

Captain Joe O'Brien, of Fortress Monroe spent the week-end in the home of F. A. O'Brien. Mrs. Louis Dahl and son, of Farmville, spent the week-end in the same home.

Miss Kate O'Brien returned Thursday from Roanoke, Va., where she visited friends during the holidays.

Dinner guests of Mrs. F. A. O'Brien and Miss Kate O'Brien Saturday night were Mrs. Bertha Gills, Miss Cornelia Gills Mrs. Mary Taylor Copenhaver, Mr. and Mrs. Banks Frazier, Joe O'Brien and Mrs. Mildred Alvis and family.

"The Arizona Ranch Boys", radio stage and recording artists, will be at the Vera school in Appomattox on January 13, at 7:30 P.M., with a full program of music, singing, dancing and comedy. Be sure to come. Admission 30 and 15 cents.

The sewing class met with Mrs. Bob Morris last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Patterson, of Lynchburg visited friends and relatives here over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Gilbert spent Sunday with Mrs. Wade Ferguson.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard McFadden spent Sunday with Mrs. Eddie Carter.

Surgeons Mend Bomb Victims

New Technique in Plastic Treatment Credited With Amazing Recoveries.

CHICAGO.—The personal stories that illustrate better than words the terrific beating the English people have taken from Nazi bombings and their astonishing recovery were outlined before the nation's eye, ear and throat doctors by Sir Harold Delf Gillies of London.

Sir Harold, who has charge of plastic surgery among war casualties, whether service or civilian, presented a series of colored sound motion pictures that illustrated the injuries inflicted on human bodies by bomb explosions and how the broken bodies are rehabilitated. He spoke before the American Academy of Ophthalmologists and Otolaryngologists.

Tell Wonderful Story.

His films told the story, for instance, of the pert little Cockney stenographer taken from a bombed movie with part of her face, including one eye, destroyed. With the face repaired by the surgeons skill (in the last scene) she told how anxious she was to grazing crop.

There was also the case of the volunteer fireman, miraculously saved from death when a bomb hit a few yards away, but pinned at the bottom of the crater by huge curbstones and exposed for two hours to a driving rain—also a broken pipe. With new skin grafted on head and shoulder and a new thumb built by plastic surgery he is now back on the job.

Then there was the case of the ballet dancer, whose face was badly marked when a bomb hit the night club where she performed. One side of her face, said Sir Harold, looked as charming as ever, but "the other side looked like Hitler," where dust and debris had tattooed the skin.

New Techniques.

England's fighter pilot shortage made it especially important to return them to the air as soon as possible after injuries or burns, Sir Harold said, and films illustrated the new techniques British surgeons, aided by American volunteers, are developing in treating their wounds.

The worst jobs that come to plastic surgery, the English surgeon stressed, are those of burns. British physicians are abandoning the tannic acid treatment for major burns, he said, because it often masks infection, and are using instead a newly developed saline bath treatment. With the aid of Dr. John W. Converse of Boston, who has been working with Sir Harold for a year, a new "two-way method of fixing certain types of jaw fractures is regarded as a great improvement over old techniques.

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No U. S. man-of-war has ever mutinied or been in the hands of mutineers.

• • •

Records show that there are 16 American Indians in the U. S. Navy.

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Buy Defense Stamps, Bonds.

• • •

The U. S. Navy, up to the present war, has had only four fleet actions, but in every one it captured and destroyed every enemy ship.

FARM TOPICS

FLOCK'S COMFORT NETS MORE EGGS

Hen Protection Is Vital Need In Winter Season.

By C. F. PARRISH
(Poultryman, North Carolina State College.)

When the cold winds of winter blow, that's the time to think of the comfort of the farm poultry flock.

A comfortable house, free from drafts, will help to keep the birds free from common winter ailments and aid them in producing a maximum number of eggs.

Then, too, each bird should have at least 3½ to 4 square feet of floor space. If the flock is crowded, additional space should be provided or the number culled down to a point where the birds may be comfortable in present quarters.

Water that has been heated to knock the chill off, or fresh from the well early each morning, will do much to prevent a cold snap from causing a sharp drop in egg production. For less trouble, automatic electric or oil-heated warmers should be installed.

The feeding of one pound of alfalfa leaf meal per 100 birds will be a satisfactory substitute for green feed if the dry fall prevented the sowing of a grazing crop.

If the flock is properly housed and cared for and not more than 30 to 40 eggs per 100 hens are received daily, then there may be something wrong with the health or breeding of the birds.

Although it is too late to change the laying flock this year, the poultryman should give careful thought to the kind of breeding males he uses next year, or the sources from which he purchases his baby chicks, it is advised.

AGRICULTURE IN INDUSTRY

By Florence C. Weed

(This is one of a series of articles showing how farm products are finding an important market in industry.)

Walnuts and Furniture

Those stately ancestral walnut trees that grow about a home place are seldom thought of as farm income. Yet individual walnut trees have sometimes bring from $50 to $100 each—occasionally more. The price is as high as $500 per thousand feet for the best wood, the highest price of any wood grown on the farm. In the walnut-producing states, farmers have sold as much as $2,500,000 in walnut logs annually.

Furniture manufacturers buy the greatest part of the wood but the more inferior grades bring good prices for gun stocks, automobile steering wheels, airplane propellers and musical instruments. In its unpainted state, the wood is one of the most beautiful and has lasting beauty when finished. It is very durable and does not check or warp.

Much of the fine old heirloom furniture is made of solid walnut. Modern pieces are now often made of veneer which is young walnut sapwood steamed to produce the effect of better class wood.

The annual nut crop brings a steady income to growers year after year. There is a ready market for nut meats at 12 to 15 cents per pound in small quantities or five dollars per bushel in large quantities. Scientists have improved the walnut by producing a variety with a larger percentage of meat than shell.

The walnut tree grows on ground of fairly low fertility and offers a profitable enterprise for many farmers who want to add another source of income.

Rural Briefs

Less fence wire, steel fence posts and nails will be available for farmers' use in 1942.

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Three rats eat and destroy enough feed in one year to carry two laying hens on a poultry farm.

• • •

Buttons for American soldiers' uniforms are being made of the casein of milk at the rate of 12,000,000 a week.

• • •

The U. S. department of agriculture has developed a hybrid popcorn which gives a bigger and better pop and is more tender.

• • •

Oil extracted from grape seeds in Italy is used as a war-time substitute for linseed and olive oils in the making of soap, paint and lacquers.

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In a test of 308 days by the department of agriculture, pullets fed mash in pellet form each averaged 17 eggs more than those fed unpelleted mash. Feed consumption for each group was practically identical.

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Imports of sage have dropped to a point that makes domestic production necessary, reports the National Farm Chemurgic council, Columbus, Ohio, which offers to supply information on cultivation of the plant.

Engineers Keep London Cleared

City's Streets Are in Perfect Condition, Water and Gas Supply Normal.

NEW YORK.—A vivid description of engineering problems in England during wartime has been given by Walter D. Binger, commissioner of public works in Manhattan, who recently returned from London by bomber. Mr. Binger, who is the chairman of the national technological civil protection committee, had been in London since September 4, 1940, preparing a confidential report for the war department on engineering aspects of civilian defense.

"I went to London armed with a battery of questions to ask the most eminent engineers in that country concerning such subjects as protective conditions against bombs, defense against air attacks, blackouts, supervision of water supply, and defense against air attacks. I must admit that most of my report is confidential but there is still a lot I can say of interest to the American populace," he commented.

"In London I was guided by a representative of the Institute of Civil Engineers to see the work the engineers were doing. In this way I was not hampered by government officials. For example, the chief engineer of one of the biggest railroads in the country conducted me to the main points damaged by bombs.

Railroad Often Bombed.

"This particular railroad line has received about one-half of all the attacks of German bombers on railroad lines in London. Due to the advance preparations the line has never been halted long enough to cause serious trouble.

"This is made possible by advance preparations. All along the line emergency stations are set up. They are fully equipped with men and machinery to get to the scene of the bombing and repair all damage. A bridge which carried the main traffic of four lines was almost totally wiped out, but in 24 hours one of the lines was traveling over it on schedule."

Another reason for England's remarkable stand against bombing attacks is that their repairs are made on a permanent basis instead of temporary.

Mr. Binger declared that all the streets in London are in almost perfect condition. The gas and water supplies are functioning as in peace time.

Water System Savior.

"Many engineers before the war scoffed at the water piping system in London," he went on. "They thought it was obsolete, but this 'obsolete' water system was a savior. Due to the many cross pipes and cross sections of the piping system the enemy bombers could never make a death blow at London's water supply. In this respect London is luckier than New York."

A unique use of the cellars of bombed houses was described by Mr. Binger. When a house is demolished by a bomb the debris is cleared away. The cellar is cleaned and lined with rubber. When this is accomplished water is piped into the cellar and it is used as a reservoir. There are now 150 such reservoirs in London. The largest holds a half million gallons of water.

Engineers in London are planning to build 800 more of them.

"One of the reasons a factory is able to recover so quickly after a bombing is because of the 300,000 tarpaulins stored by the ministry of aircraft production," he said. "Immediately after a bombing these tarpaulins are put over all open machinery and windows."

Appomattox is a growing town.

My Neighbor Says:

Popcorn will be more flaky if a little cold water is thrown over it before it is popped.

• • •

Do not add salt to potatoes until they are almost boiled, if you wish them to be white and fluffy.

• • •

Borax whitens napkins. Use a tablespoon of borax in each two quarts of water used for rinsing napkins.

• • •

When milk has turned sour allow it to stand until it wheys, then turn into a cheesecloth bag and hang up to drain until dry. You then will have cottage cheese.

(Associated Newspapers—WNU Service.)

For President Roosevelt, finding names for most of the Navy's warships is both a duty and a hobby.

A chief petty officer in the Navy is called a "crow" because of the eagle on his rating.

Navy code books aboard ship are bound in lead so that they can be tossed overboard and sunk.

Several months ago the Navy discontinued requiring full dress uniforms for the duration of the present emergency.

Neils Anderson, 72, recently reenlisted in the Navy as chief petty officer at Great Lakes training station.

American destroyers are the only ones in the world which can be refueled without stopping at sea.

CARY TO ASK FOR CODE REVISION

State Senator Hunsdon Cary, of Henrico has announced that he will propose a bill in the 1942 Legislature asking for a general revising and recodification of the Virginia Code. His statement followed a request by Thomas W. Ozlin, of the State Corporation Commission that the code be brought up to date, and that "deadwood" and conflicting sections be eliminated.

OFFICE WILL MOVE TO RICHMOND

Richmond, Jan. 5.- The United States Patent Office is moving to Richmond from Washington, bringing 1,230 Government employees to Virginia, and it is understood that the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Veterans' Bureau and the Wage-Hour Division of the Department of Labor may follow.

The move which will mean a sizable increase in Richmond's total payroll, comes as the result of increasing congestion in Washington, where the growing number of those employed in war-time projects has crowded office and housing facilities. The Patent Office's new headquarters will occupy 160,000 square feet in the building of a tobacco company at 900 North Lombardy Street in Richmond.

Subscription price: $1.50 a year, payable in advance.

October statistics show that California, New York and Texas contribute more men to the Navy than any other states in the Union.

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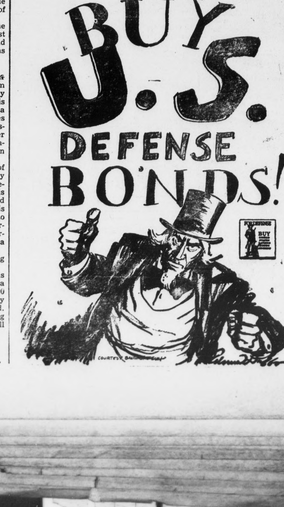
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